

LIBRA



NEWTON ABBOT
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR.
1950.

H. M. DAVIES.
M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
ASSISTANT COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER:
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:
ASHBURTON U.D.C.
DAWLISH U.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT R.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT U.D.C.

TELEPHONE No. 715/6

COUNCIL OFFICES,
KINGSTEIGNTON ROAD,
NEWTON ABBOT.

NEWTON ABBOT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
ANNUAL REPORT - 1950.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1950.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Area (in acres) | 4,132. |
| Population - 1931 Census | 15,010. |
| Population - Mid 1950 | 16,120. |
| Rateable Value as at 1st. January, 1950 ... | £127,467. |
| Rateable Value as at 31st. December, 1950.. | £130,858. |
| Product of 1d. rate (as at 1st. April, 1950)..... | £ 513. |

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

The following table shows that the Birth Rate for the District is still below that for England and Wales as a whole. It also shows a decrease on that of previous years, the figures being 15.03 per thousand total population 1950, as against 17.06 for 1949 and 16.34 for 1948.

NEWTON ABBOT
KINGSTON ROAD
SURREY

LIVE BIRTHS.

| | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Legitimate. | 122 | 107 | 229 |
| Illegitimate. | 10 | 3 | 13 |
| | <u>-----</u> | <u>-----</u> | <u>-----</u> |
| | 132 | 110 | 242. |
| | <u>-----</u> | <u>-----</u> | <u>-----</u> |
| Live Birth Rate per 1000 total population | - | - | 15.03. |
| Corresponding rate for England and Wales | - | - | 15.8. |

STILL BIRTHS.

| | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|--|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Illegitimate | - | 1 | 1 |
| | <u>---</u> | <u>---</u> | <u>---</u> |
| | 2 | 2 | 4. |
| | <u>---</u> | <u>---</u> | <u>---</u> |
| Still Birth Rate per 1000 total population | - | - | 0.24. |
| Still Birth Rate per 1000 total live and still births | - | - | 16.26. |
| Still Birth Rate per 1000 total live and still births (England and Wales) | - | - | 22.7 |


DEATHS.

The death rate for the Urban District continues to be higher than the average for England and Wales, this is shown in the accompanying table. During the year the average age at death from all causes was found to be 70.1 years. The average age at death for residents in the Urban District shows an increase on that of the previous year the figure for 1949 being 67.6 years.

| | | |
|---|---|--------|
| Death Rate per 1000 resident population | - | 16.58. |
| Death Rate per 1000 resident population (England and Wales) | - | 11.6. |

Infant Mortality .
(Deaths of Infants under One year of age).

| | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | - | 1 |
| | <u>---</u> | <u>---</u> | <u>---</u> |
| | 6 | 3 | 9. |
| | <u>---</u> | <u>---</u> | <u>---</u> |



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The Infant Mortality Rate (Death of Infants
under One year per 1000 live births) - 37.19.
Corresponding Rate for England and Wales - 29.8.

It will be seen that the Infant Mortality Rate for the
Urban District is above that for the whole country.

AGE AT DEATH.

| | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Infants under 1 year | 6 | 3 |
| 1 - 5 | 1 | - |
| 5 - 15 | 2 | - |
| 15 - 25 | - | 1 |
| 25 - 35 | 4 | 3 |
| 35 - 45 | 3 | 1 |
| 45 - 55 | 14 | 7 |
| 55 - 65 | 22 | 12 |
| 65 - 75 | 44 | 31 |
| 75 and over | 50 | 63. |
| | <u>146</u> | <u>121.</u> |

Total = 267.

The chief causes of death were:-

| | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| <u>Infectious Cases:-</u> | | |
| Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) | 3 | 1 |
| Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary) | - | 1 |
| Poliomyelitis | 1 | - |
| Pneumonia | 7 | 2 |
| Influenza | 1 | 1 |
| Other infective and parasitic diseases | - | 1 |
| <u>General Causes:-</u> | | |
| Heart and Blood Vessels | 48 | 49 |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage | 21 | 21 |
| Cancer | 22 | 21 |
| Leukaemia, aleukaemia | 1 | - |
| Bronchitis | 3 | 5 |
| | <u>107</u> | <u>102</u> |
| c/fwd. | 107 | 102 |

The chief causes of death were:-

| | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| <u>General Causes</u> (contd.) ^{b/fwd.} | 107 | 102 |
| Other resp. diseases | - | 1 |
| Diabetes | 1 | 1 |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | 3 | 1 |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | 3 | - |
| Nephritis | 2 | 1 |
| Hyperplasia of prostate | 7 | - |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | - | 1 |
| Congenital malformations | 4 | 1 |
| Other defined and ill- defined diseases | 16 | 11 |
| Accidents - other than motor vehicle accidents | 2 | - |
| Suicide | 1 | 2 |
| | <u>146</u> | <u>121</u> |

Total = 267.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

| <u>Disease.</u> | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Scarlet Fever | - | 2 | 2 |
| Measles | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Pneumonia | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Poliomyelitis | 8 | 8 | 16 |
| Puerperal pyrexia | - | 1 | 1 |
| | <u>12</u> | <u>15</u> | <u>27</u> |

Total = 27.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

More cases of Acute Poliomyelitis were notified during 1950 than in any previous year. The first case was notified on 11th. August and four more notifications were received by

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS. (contd.).

the 18th. August. Eleven other cases were reported at irregular intervals from the 2nd. September until the last case which was reported on the 27th. December, 1950.

AGE INCIDENCE.

The age incidence of the reported cases showed that Acute Poliomyelitis was affecting much older people than than used to be the case years ago. The old name of "Infantile Paralysis" is no longer applicable.

In the series of cases at Newton Abbot the oldest was in a man of 43 who made a good recovery, another man of 41 succumbed to the disease. Six cases including three from the Polish Hostel at Stover were reported in children under five years of age. Three were in respect of children from 5 - 15 years and the remaining seven cases occurred in persons of 15 or more years of age.

RESIDUAL EFFECTS.

Of the sixteen cases which occurred in the District one proved fatal, one is likely to have severe residual paralysis sufficient to prove a severe handicap to the person involved. Nine are likely to have some residual paralysis but not to such an extent that they will be prevented from living a life with very little physical restriction. A complete recovery was made in five cases.

MODE OF SPREAD.

The mode of spread of the disease from person to person remains almost unknown. In no instant was more than one member of a family attacked by the disease despite the fact that some of the cases occurred in quite large families. In no case, despite very careful investigation, were we able definitely to relate any two cases to a common source of infection.

One point which was well shown in our investigations during the outbreak was that there does appear to be a definite relationship between the severity of the disease in an individual and any unusually strenuous activity that that individual had undergone in the two weeks prior to the onset of the disease.

SWIMMING BATHS.

Swimming baths have from time to time been suspected, often without any real evidence, as probable sources of

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ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS. (contd.).

SWIMMING BATHS.

infection. Very careful consideration was given to this question and it was decided that the possible advantages to be gained from the closing of the bath, in which the water was constantly being purified and chlorinated, would be more than outweighed by the children swimming in streams and rivers which are, I regret to say, often very highly polluted.

The chlorination of the water at the Swimming Baths was very considerably increased during the period of the outbreak not only to hasten the destruction of any virus which might have been in the water, but also as a deterrent to a prolonged and exhausting swim.

The co-operation of the Hospital Authorities and also of the members of the local Medical and Dental professions was asked and willingly given in limiting to the barest necessity those procedures which might possibly have an adverse effect on the course of Acute Poliomyelitis in an individual who might be incubating the disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Thirty-three cases were notified during the year, twelve male and twenty-one female, of which twenty-nine were pulmonary and four non-pulmonary. Of the thirty-three cases notified during 1950 eight - 3 male and five female - were in respect of residents at the Polish Hostel, Stover, six were pulmonary and two non-pulmonary. Details are set out in the following table:-

| <u>AGE PERIODS:</u> | | | <u>CASES:</u> | | | |
|------------------------|----------|----|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| | | | <u>Pulmonary.</u> | | <u>Non-Pulmonary.</u> | |
| | | | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> |
| Infants under one year | | | — | — | — | — |
| 1 | — | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 5 | — | 15 | — | 1 | — | — |
| 15 | — | 25 | 2 | 5 | — | — |
| 25 | — | 35 | 2 | 8 | — | 1 |
| 35 | — | 45 | 3 | 1 | — | — |
| 45 | — | 55 | 3 | — | — | — |
| 55 | — | 65 | — | 2 | — | — |
| 65 | and over | | — | — | — | — |
| | | | — | — | — | — |
| | | | 11. | 18. | 1. | 3. |
| | | | — | — | — | — |
| | | | Total = 33. | | | |

DIPHTHERIA.

No cases of diphtheria have been reported during the year. It is hoped that this very successful result of the Immunisation campaign will not lead to a state of apathy about the need for Diphtheria Immunisation. The need for the protection of children against diphtheria is as great as ever it was.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 - Section 47.

In one case of an elderly person being in need of care and attention action had to be taken under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

H. DAVIES.

Medical Officer of Health.

5th. November, 1951.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE NEWTON ABBOT URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to submit herewith the Annual Report for
the year ending 31st. December, 1950.

DRAINAGE.

The Supervision of drainage work has been carried out
in respect of 64 premises during the year. This has
necessitated the carrying out of 134 drainage tests and
involving a total of 191 visits.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.

| 1. <u>Inspections.</u> | No. on Register. | Inspection- tions. | No. of written notices. | Occupiers Prosecuted |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authority. | 57 | 24 | Nil | Nil |
| ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority. | 43 | 15 | 1 | Nil |
| iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority. | 2 | Nil | Nil | Nil. |

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948 (contd.)

2. Cases in which defects were found.

| | Found | Remedied | Ref. to H.M. Insp. | Ref. by H.M. Insp. | Prose- cution. |
|--|-------|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <u>No. of cases in which defects were found.</u> | | | | | |
| Want of cleanliness (S1) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Overcrowding (S2) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Unreasonable temperature (S3) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Inadequate ventilation (S4) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S6) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sanitary conveniences (S7) | | | | | |
| (a) insufficient | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| (b) unsuitable or defective | - | - | - | - | - |
| (c) not separate for sexes | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other offences (not relating to cutwork)- | | - | - | - | - |

FOOD INSPECTION.

The Model Byelaws adopted by the Council in November 1949 are awaiting the approval of the Ministry of Food.

During the year routine visits have been paid to premises where food is prepared and handled for human consumption, the total of 182 inspections having been made.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The Ministry of Food continues to occupy the Council's Abattoir with killing still carried out for 4 other adjoining local authorities as well as the urban district, involving a population of approximately 60,000.

I am pleased to again report 100% inspection of all animals killed at the Abattoir together with dressed carcasses brought thereto. As will be seen from the following table the

MEAT INSPECTION (contd.)

the number of animals killed has increased by over 1,800, an increase of more than 11% on last years slaughtering which was 15,241.

It is perhaps pertinent to point out this involves a considerable number of hours worked over and above normal office hours.

17,065 animals were killed at the Abattoir during the year, namely:-

2,665 Bullocks
11,624 Sheep
2,383 Calves.
394 Pigs.

| | CATTLE ex COWS | COWS | CALVES | SHEEP | PIGS |
|--|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| NUMBER KILLED: | 1,618 | 1,047 | 2,382 | 11,624 | 394 |
| NUMBER INSPECTED: | 1,618 | 1,047 | 2,382 | 11,624 | 394 |
| All diseases other than Tuberculosis (i) Whole carcasses condemned. | 6 | 17 | 16 | 70 | 7 |
| (ii) carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned. | 290 | 420 | 31 | 677 | 10 |
| % of animals inspected affected by disease other than Tuberculosis. | 18.29% | 41.72% | 1.97% | 6.42% | 4.31% |
| Tuberculosis only (i) Whole carcass condemned. | 9 | 49 | 4 | - | 6 |
| (ii) carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 85 | 149 | 4 | - | 36 |
| % of animals inspected affected by Tuberculosis. | 5.8% | 18.91% | 0.33% | - | 16.6% |

3 cases of cysticercus bovis were detected during the year, out of a total of 2,665 cattle slaughtered, but fortunately such cases were not generalised and were submitted to cold

MEAT INSPECTION. (contd.).

storage treatment for a period of three weeks. The % of incidence was therefore, 0.11%.

ICE CREAM.

The number of premises producing Ice Cream in this district has decreased and production is now carried on by 2 large scale producers making a Heat Treated product and one small scale producer making a complete Cold-Mix Ice Cream. Frequent visits have been paid to these premises and also to where Ice Cream is sold by retail and it is pleasing to report that the conditions are generally satisfactory.

At the end of the year 40 premises were registered under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 relating to the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream, an increase of 8 premises over last year.

45 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination with the following results:-

| | <u>% 1950</u> | <u>% 1949</u> |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Grade 1 - 17 | 42.5% | 20% |
| Grade 2 - 12 | 30% | 30% |
| Grade 3 - 9 | 22.5% | 15% |
| Grade 4 - 2 | 5% | 35% |

5 results were not available due to the fact that the samples were delayed in transit and arrived at the Laboratory too late for examination.

UNSCUND FOOD.

The amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption during the year is as follows:-

81 Bullock carcasses and offal.
20 Calf carcasses and offal.
70 Sheep carcasses and offal.
13 Pig carcasses and offal.
159 Bovine heads.
32 Pigs heads.
2,145 Organs and parts.
1,425 lbs. Beef.
9 lbs. Mutton.
155 tins Milk.
205 tins Meat.
105 tins Fish.

UN SOUND FOOD (contd.)

175 tins Fruit.
295 tins Vegetables.
37 tins Soup
220 lbs. Jam.
112 sts. Fish.
16 jars Paste.
176 Crumpets.
678 bottles of Sauce.
243 bottles of Mint Sauce.
1 bottle of Orange Juice.
20 bottles of Salad Cream.
16 jars Grapefruit Juice.
59 tins Norwegian Spread.
1 tin Sandwich Spread.
6 tins Patum Peperium.
26 lbs. Sausages.
100 lbs. Tripe.
14 lbs. Fish cakes.
8 lbs. Bacon.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Cornflour.
14 lbs. Vermicelli.
80 lbs. Tea.
18 lbs. Cake.
 $2\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Butter.
10 lbs. Goose.
1 tin Apple Pudding.
1 tin Green Olives.
4 tins Gherkins.
2 pkts. Dates.
1 tin Nescafe.
196 pkts. Wheatflakes.
4,208 pkts. Pastry Mixture.
114 Duck Eggs.

I am pleased to report that in no case was it necessary to formally seize the unsound food, all being voluntarily surrendered for destruction.

HOUSING.

A further 92 new Council houses have been occupied during the year, and the number of families still requiring accommodation at the end of the year was 390.

It is unfortunately still not possible under existing circumstances to bring obsolete houses up to a satisfactory standard and little can be done other than the execution of essential, urgent repairs. 379 dwelling houses have been inspected for defects under the Housing Acts and/or Public Health Act, 1936 involving the total of 624 visits.

HOUSING. (contd.).

56 Informal Notices to remedy defects were served. In 10 cases it was necessary to take statutory action under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936 and in addition 4 statutory notices under the Public Health Act, 1936 were served. 46 dwelling houses were rendered fit in consequence of such action, 2 houses were closed as a result of undertakings under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, received from the owners.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

A weekly collection of house and trade refuse has been maintained and continuing the policy of replacing old vehicles one more rear loading moving-floor refuse collection vehicle has been obtained during the year under review.

Refuse Disposal.

Disposal has alternated between tipping sites adjoining the Torquay Road and at the rear of Forde Road. In both cases controlled tipping being carried out.

SALVAGE.

It is pleasing to report that there has been an increase in the quantity of waste materials disposed of and also that there has been a slight increase in the prices paid for such materials.

Details of salvage disposed of during the year is as follows:-

| | |
|---|-------------|
| 90 tons of Waste Paper at approximately | £395. 0. 0. |
| 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt. of Rags at approximately | 6. 2. 0. |
| | ----- |
| Total Value | £401. 2. 0. |

157 tons of Kitchen Waste.

RODENT CONTROL.

The functions of the Council have continued to be carried out by the employment of one employee on the work of baiting and poisoning part time only, and the methods employed are those recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries with satisfactory results.

In this connection 40 premises were dealt with involving 240 visits.

RODENT CONTROL. (contd.).

Sewer treatment was completed in May and December with indications that the infestation of sewers in the district is not heavy. There is no doubt that the continuance of these treatments does have an effect on the number of cases of serious infestation.

STAFF.

There are no changes in the Staff to report for this year, and I again wish to record my thanks to Mr. Rodgers, Additional Sanitary Inspector, and to Miss Davies for the able manner in which they have carried out their duties.

In conclusion may I thank the members of the Council for their consideration and support and also express my thanks to colleagues for the cooperation received during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C.E. PETHICK, F.S.I.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

